

JOSEPH DICKINSON.

APRIL 4, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURNHAM, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 5205.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 5205) granting an increase of pension to Joseph Dickinson, have examined the same and report:

Brevet Brig. Gen. Joseph Dickinson was born in Philadelphia, Pa., December 25, 1830, being descended from a Pennsylvania ancestry distinguished for heroic patriotism in the old colonial days.

His maternal grandfather and four granduncles fought in the Revolutionary war under Washington. His father was in the war of 1812, and himself and nine others of the family entered the lists of the Union Army during the rebellion.

General Dickinson early in 1861 blew the bugle notes which assembled the Twenty-sixth Pennsylvania Infantry, which started for Washington wholly unequipped and unarmed and accompanied the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment in its memorable passage through Baltimore. The regiment was afterwards reorganized as the first of the three years' volunteers.

General Dickinson was mustered into the United States service as first lieutenant and adjutant, Twenty-sixth Pennsylvania Volunteers, to date from May 5, 1861; was commissioned by President Lincoln captain and assistant adjutant-general, United States Volunteers, August 22, 1861; major and assistant adjutant-general, August 22, 1862, and lieutenant-colonel and assistant adjutant-general, November 10, 1862. He was brevetted lieutenant-colonel, colonel, and brigadier-general for gallantry in battle; was assigned to duty as assistant adjutant-general and chief of staff on the staff of Gen. Joseph Hooker, August 22, 1861; was wounded at Williamsburg, Va., May 5, 1861; severely wounded at Fair Oaks, Va., June 1, 1862, and again severely wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa., July 3, 1863.

His record in the adjutant-general's department, in the field, is without a parallel. Having originally entered the services as adjutant of

his regiment, he successively became adjutant-general of brigade, division, corps, grand division, and of the Army of the Potomac.

When General Hooker took command of the Army of the Potomac he appointed him his adjutant-general, with the rank of brigadier-general, which he declined, much to his regret, for the reason that it would have kept him in camp when he (General Hooker) was on the field of battle. He participated in all of the great battles and skirmishes of the Army of the Potomac.

Upon the retirement of General Hooker from the command of the Army of the Potomac and the assumption of the command by Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, at the urgent personal solicitation of the latter, General Dickinson remained on duty on the staff.

While at Taneytown, Md., General Meade showed his great confidence and appreciation of General Dickinson's eminent military skill and ability by selecting him for the important duty of proceeding to Gettysburg on the eve of June 30 for consultation with Gen. John Buford, then holding the town with his cavalry, and determining the movements of the infantry column under Gen. John F. Reynolds. It was upon the judgment and conclusions of Generals Buford and Dickinson, after an earnest consideration of the situation until long after midnight, with the enemy's forces rapidly concentrating about the outskirts of the town, that a staff officer was dispatched with orders to General Reynolds to move his command to Gettysburg. Thus it was that General Reynolds received the orders from General Meade that resulted in that great battle. General Dickinson, having called on General Reynolds on his way up to Gettysburg and informing him of the nature of his duty and instructions, had prepared him for the receipt of any orders resultant therefrom.

It was General Dickinson who selected the position at the little farmhouse on the Taneytown road (almost the center of the field) for headquarters of General Meade during the battle which followed, and was himself severely wounded there on July 3.

In the fall of 1863, being incapacitated by wounds for service in the field, he was assigned to inspection duty at Washington.

He resigned January 24, 1864, and was "honorably mustered out of service on account of wounds received in action."

General Dickinson also greatly distinguished himself at the battle of Chancellorsville, Va., where, during the battle, at great risk of life and capture, he rescued eighteen ladies and children from the burning Chancellor House, which was destroyed by the bursting shells.

Without including skirmishes, he participated in the following battles:

1862.—Yorktown, siege of, April and May; Williamsburg, Va., May 5 (wounded); Fair Oaks, Va., June 1 (wounded); advanced pickets, Virginia, June 25; Glendale, Va., June 30; Malvern Hill, Virginia, July 1; Malvern Hill, Virginia (retaking), August 4; Bristow Station, Va., August 27; Bull Run, Virginia, August 29 and 30; Chantilly, Va., September 1; South Mountain, Maryland, September 14; Antietam, Md., September 16 and 17; Fredericksburg, Va., December 11 to 16.

1863.—Kellys Ford, Va., March 17; Chancellorsville, Va., May 1 to 5; Brandy Station, Va., June 9; Aldie, Va., June 17; Middleburg, Va., June 19; Upperville, Va., June 21; Gettysburg, Pa., July 1 to 3 (wounded).

General Dickinson is receiving a general-law pension of \$30 per month on account of gunshot wound of left forearm and buckshot wounds of left breast, affecting heart, received in battle. He is 73 years of age and is now in a most deplorable physical condition, perfectly helpless and confined to his bed, requiring the constant care of a nurse. Because of his advanced age and the chronic character of his ailments the probabilities are against his ever being able to support himself. He is in poverty and needs relief, and your committee, in consideration of his distinguished services, report the bill back favorably with a recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 6, after the word "late," strike out the word "colonel" and insert in lieu thereof the words "lieutenant-colonel and assistant adjutant-general."

In line 8 strike out the words "one hundred" and insert in lieu thereof the word "fifty."

